

In this episode, the female lead spends a good deal of time suspended in midair, horizontal and facedown, so it really does need the payoff of a good spanking scene. Luckily for us, this is easy to arrange...

Lady Christina de Souza gets involved in the Doctor's life as she is escaping from a daring robbery, so she's set up from the start as a very naughty girl. Then she rubs the Doctor up the wrong way when she takes charge of the situation on the marooned bus. So it's pretty clear that some kind of retribution is going to have to follow, and there's a sequence that's almost tailor-made when she and the Doctor are aboard the Tritovore ship.

Left by the shaft, Lady Christina lies to the Doctor about whether his tinkering is having any effect, because she wants to use her kit to go down and get the crystal herself. She's deceitful and disobedient here, and she nearly gets herself killed because she doesn't bank on the safety shield halfway down the shaft. The Doctor uses the sonic screwdriver to stop her descent just in time, so that she can switch off the shield and carry on down and get the crystal. Then the Doctor discovers the stolen goblet in her bag and realizes that she is a thief - she's been a bad girl...

So, back up she comes with the crystal and associated machinery, pausing only to switch the force shield back on and disintegrate the deadly flying stingray that's chasing her - another case of foolhardy action that could have been the death of her. And here we take a slight detour from what happens on screen, by delaying the realization that there are more of those nasty stingrays in the works.

Up goes Lady Christina, right up to the top of her wire. With a flash of the sonic screwdriver she comes to an abrupt stop that jolts the crystal out of her hands. The Doctor catches it and hands it to a Tritovore. He looks up at Lady Christina, hanging in that appealingly horizontal position six feet above his head. 'Doctor, are you going to let me down or what?' she says.

The Doctor sits down, raises the screwdriver again and activates it. Slowly and gently, Lady Christina inches downwards. With just a few feet left to go, he twists the base of the screwdriver. In a flash, the harness fastenings all come loose and the still horizontal girl is deposited across his lap, with her round bottom sticking vulnerably upwards. Automatically, the Doctor places a steadying hand in the small of her back.

'You can let me up now, Doctor,' she says, a touch of nervousness in her voice.

'Let you down, let you up,' says the Doctor. 'Nah! I've got you just where I want you for the time being.'

'Now you just wait a minute, Doctor,' protests Lady Christina, as realization dawns.

'Oh, waiting's no problem for me. Plenty of time for me. Time Lord, remember? Trouble is, this is something that's been coming to *you* for a long time. A few of these earlier on and Lady Christina de Souza might not have wound up as Lady Christina de Souza, jewel thief. But, as the saying goes, it's never too late for a jolly good smacked bottom...'

And with that, he brings his right hand down hard SPANK! across the seat of her tight black catsuit. Her bottom wobbles vigorously at the impact and her whole body arcs with the shock. 'OWWWWW!' she squeals.

'New experience?' says the Doctor. SPANK! 'But you're supposed to be hungry for new experiences!' SPANK! 'Living for kicks, that's you, that is.' He looks wryly at her fluttering legs. SPANK! 'Nothing you won't try for excitement.' SPANK! 'Even if you get yourself killed...' SPANK! '...and everyone else into the bargain!' SPANK!

A few more sound spanks and a tearful Lady Christina is set on her feet... whereupon the other stingrays make their presence felt, the Tritovores get eaten and we're back on course with the televised episode.

So that's why, later on, Lady Christina says she hates the Doctor. And that's why he helps her to escape from the police at the end. She's already had her punishment...